

2023.009.D139a

Disney Project Takes Millions From Valley, State Aide Says

BY MARTHA L. WILLMAN

Times Staff Writer

VAN NUYS—A state highway commissioner asserted Thursday that highway projects in the Valley have been crippled by the commission's allocation of \$21 million in Los Angeles district funds to build a highway to the proposed Walt Disney Mineral King resort in the High Sierra.

Attorney Alexander H. Pope, the Los Angeles representative on the State Highway Commission, said the loss of funds will set back construction of the Simi Freeway between Chatsworth and Pacoima, the proposed Whitnall-Malibu Freeway across the central Valley or the Reseda-to-the-Sea Freeway.

The funds were taken from District 7 (Los Angeles, Ventura, Orange Counties) because the Tu-

lare County district, site of the planned resort, doesn't have enough state funds to build the proposed highway, Pope declared.

Plans for the Mineral King highway have been completed but construction is delayed pending the outcome of a Sierra Club suit against the federal government. The conservationist club won a federal court order halting construction of the \$35 million resort and the highway.

The club contends the resort will ruin the wilderness area. No funds will be spent on the highway until the suit is settled.

Addressing the West Van Nuys Rotary Club, Pope made the charge while criticizing state and federal

Please Turn to Page 8, Col. 1

Nov 14, 1969

Commission Criticized for Transfer of Funds

Nov 14, 1969

Continued from First Page

rules controlling expenditure of highway funds.

"The money our district lost to Tulare County could have paid for construction of the freeway through the north Valley," Pope said. "A loss like that can set our projects back a full year. And we probably never will be able to totally regain the loss."

The Simi Freeway, under construction and scheduled for completion in 1975, is expected to cost almost \$26 million.

Whitnall Freeway

The Whitnall-Malibu Freeway is scheduled for completion in five to seven years but Pope warned losses in funds may delay construction as long as 10 years.

"The rules for expenditure of gas tax monies are terribly rigid and we are going to have to do something to see that Los Angeles gets its fair share," Pope asserted.

He said Los Angeles loses about 5% of what it pays in state gas taxes and almost 15% of its share of federal gas taxes.

Among expenditure rules he criticized is a requirement that every county spend \$1 million annually on highway construction planning.

"It is ridiculous to equalize the needs of some of the tiny counties in Northern California compared to the desperate needs of the crowded counties in Southern California," he said. "I question whether some of those roads in Northern California should even be in the highway system."

As a result, Pope said, the Valley has been cheated out of "a heck of a lot of highway mileage for an area with a million people."

Robbins

THE COMPLETE

CAN FIT ANY

AVERAGE • STOCK

• SMALL • BIG •

For the hard to fit man. A complete line of shirts, slacks, and long pants. Shirts from small to 4X.

FOR THE AVERAGE

LUXURY

• SILK & WOOL

All sizes up to 4X



REG.
95.00
SUITS